

Message Text

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ACTION OPR-02

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FM USDEL SECRETARY HELSINKI

TO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTO 8061

FOR AMBASSADOR FROM HARTMAN

REF: BUCHAREST 3608

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP(FORD, GERALD R.), RO

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL VISIT: WREATH-LAYING CEREMONIES

1. PROBLEM IS NOT THAT THE PRESIDENT DOES NOT WISH TO LAY A WREATH IN ORDER TO LEAVE MORE TIME FOR HEAD-TO-HEAD TALKS. AFTER ALL, TRAIN TRIP TO SINAIA AND BACK PLUS TALKS ON SATURDAY PLUS MEAL-TIMES PROVIDE AMPLE OPPORTUNITY FOR SUBSTANTIVE AND NONSUBSTANTIVE CONVERSATION. RATHER, THE PROBLEM IS WHETHER THE PRESIDENT SHOULD RPT SHOULD LAY A WREATH AT THE HEROES MONUMENT WHERE CEAUSESCU'S PREDECESSOR AS PARTY CHIEF, GHEORGHIV-DEJ, IS BURIED. WE ARE NOT INCLINED TO FAVOR A WREATH-LAYING CEREMONY ON GHEORGHIV-DEJ'S TOMB. IF A PERSUASIVE CASE CAN BE MADE THAT THE HEROES MONUMENT IS MORE OR LESS EQUIVALENT TO A TOMB OF THE UNKNOWN SOLDIER, I.E. THE HEROES ARE NOT NECESSARILY AND NOT EXCLUSIVELY COMMUNIST PARTY STALWARS, WE WOULD BE PREPARED TO GO ALONG WITH A CEREMONY THERE.

2. ONE STANDARD OF JUDGEMENT WE COULD CONSIDER IS WHETHER OTHER WESTERN CHIEFS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT (UK, FRANCE, FRG) HAVE LAID WREATHS AT THE HEROES MONUMENT. IS ARCH OF TRIUMPH OR ANY OTHER LOCATION EVER USED NOWADAYS?

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3. NO WREATH WAS LAID IN FRG. WREATHS LAID AT TOMB OF UNKNOWN SOLDIER AND AT OSWIECIM (AUSCHWITZ) IN POLAND. PRESENT SCHEDULE FOR BELGRADE CALLS FOR PRESIDENT'S SON TO LAY WREATH AT TOMB OF UNKNOWN HERO AT AWALA SOUTH OF BELGRADE BECAUSE OF SHORTNESS OF TIME.

4. PLEASE LET US HAVE YOUR VIEWS.
KISSINGER

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NNN

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